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January 10, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

To: Examiner Jason Greene Facsimile No. 703-872-9311
Group Art Unit No. 1724
U. S. P. T. O.

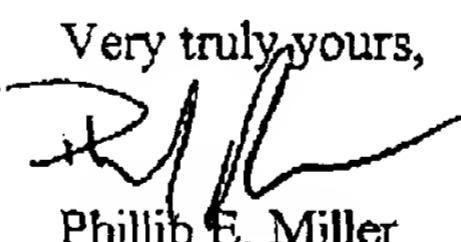
From: Phillip E. Miller Facsimile No. 703-761-2375

Re: Enclosed §1.116 Amendment
U. S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/824,671
Our Ref: NGB.055

Dear Examiner Greene:

Enclosed is an Amendment, responsive to the October 11, 2002 Office Action, which should place the above-referenced case in condition for allowance.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this case.

Very truly yours,

Phillip E. Miller

PEM/cc
Enclosure
(20 pages total)

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1-14-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Hiroaki MASHIKO et al.

Serial No.: 09/824,671

Group Art Unit: 1724

Filed: April 4, 2001

Examiner: Jason M. Greene

For: AIR-PERMEABLE FILTER FOR INK CARTRIDGE AND INK CARTRIDGE
COMPRISING SAMEHonorable Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
BOX AF**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated October 11, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:**Please amend the claims to read as follows:**

1. (Twice Amended) An air-permeable filter for an ink cartridge, said air-permeable filter comprising:

a laminate comprising:

at least one porous material layer comprising at least one resin selected from the group consisting of fluororesin and polyolefin resin; and

at least one air-permeable substrate layer having a tensile strength of 1 MPa or more, and having an outer surface bonded to said at least one porous material layer,

wherein a Gurley number of said air-permeable filter is less than 100 sec/100 ml.

5. (Twice Amended) An ink cartridge comprising:

a case for receiving an ink;

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